

In this way we should expect to find the largest number of the birds on the coast near Block Island where the wind was on shore, and at points more and more distant from this place their numbers would gradually diminish. A comparison of the list of localities at which the birds were found, with the map showing the direction of the wind when the centre was near Block Island, will show that this was apparently the case. At Cape Hatteras we should expect to hear that Killdeer appeared in considerable numbers on Nov. 24, but the storm was moving north so rapidly that in a few hours the wind blew across Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard (see dotted line on the map) before reaching Cape Hatteras, and few if any of the birds would have been carried across the land without alighting.

A NEW SPECIES OF DUCK FROM TEXAS.

BY GEORGE B. SENNETT.

Anas maculosa, nov. spec. MOTTLED DUCK.

♂ *adult*. Type in my collection, No. 5857, taken by J. A. Singley, April 4, 1889, at Nuesces Bay, near Corpus Christi, Texas; collector's No. 1386.

SPEC. CHAR.—Top of head blackish brown, margined with very pale buff; chin and throat isabella color; cheeks buffy white with narrow streaks of dark brown. Feathers of breast, wings, upper parts, and flanks blackish brown margined with pale buff. Under parts buffy white, each feather with a broad blackish brown spot near the tip, giving a decided mottled appearance. Under tail-coverts blackish with outer margin of inner web reddish buff, that of outer web buffy white. The four median feathers of tail blackish brown; the others fuscous margined with pale buff having a V-shaped mark as in *A. fulvigula*, but of a buffy white. Under surface of all tail-feathers light gray excepting the four median which are blackish brown. Lining of wing white. Speculum metallic purple, feathers tipped with white. Bill has small black spot on base of lower edge of upper mandible, as in *A. fulvigula*. Feet reddish orange. Wing, 10.05; culmen, 2.25; tarsus, 1.75; middle toe and claw, 1.50 inches.

♀ *adult*. Type in my collection, No. 5858, taken by J. A. Singley, April 4, 1889, at Nuesces Bay, near Corpus Christi, Texas; collector's No. 1387.

Similar to the male excepting that there is no black spot on the bill at the base of the upper mandible. Wing, 10.00; culmen, 1.90; tarsus 1.60; middle toe and claw, 1.45 inches.

Young, half fledged. Type in my collection, No. 5188, taken by John M. Priour, July 8, 1887, at Nuesces River, near Corpus Christi, Texas.

Top of head mixed brown and white; forehead, cheeks, chin, and throat white, anteriorly tinged with pale buff. Back brown; scapulars, breast and under tail-coverts black and reddish buff; belly blackish brown and pale buff.

I remember seeing in 1882 several pairs of this Duck on the wing when I was collecting about the extensive grass flats of Corpus Christi Bay near Padre Island. I then felt sure that it was unlike the Black Duck (*Anas obscura*) so common in the Northern States, but neglected to procure specimens. Of course I was delighted when, this season, I obtained a pair of these Ducks, adults, in breeding plumage, which, with the half-fledged young taken nearly two years ago, determine a new form of the genus breeding in southern Texas.

The new Ducks come nearer to *Anas fulvigula* than to *Anas obscura*, and after comparing them with some fine examples of *fulvigula* in the American Museum (collected by Mr. Chapman this spring in Florida), I sent the Texas birds to Mr. Ridgway that he might decide how near they came to *Anas diazi* of Mexico, which he described in 1886. Mr. Ridgway's opinion is so appropriate to the introduction of the new bird that I quote from his letter as follows: "Unfortunately I am not able to compare your Texan Black Ducks with a specimen of *Anas diazi*, the only known specimens of the latter having been taken to Mexico with the rest of the Mexican Collection. I had a photograph taken of the type, with which your birds have been compared, and have also compared them with the detailed description in Proc. Nat. Mus., Vol. IX, pp. 171-173, and cannot make them out to be the same. Your birds have larger bills and feet, the former with a black spot at lower basal angle, in males, as in *A. fulvigula*, and without the darker culmen; top of head more broadly streaked with buff, and buff markings of back, etc., also apparently broader; white subterminal band across greater wing-coverts wanting; tail-feathers differently marked, etc. I think the safer plan would be to describe your bird as a new species, more nearly allied to *A. fulvigula* than *A. diazi*."

During my absence from the American Museum Mr. D. G.

Elliot has kindly sent me a comparative description of the differences between *A. fulvigula* and this new species, and I find them so good that I have adopted much of his wording in the specific characters given above. Mr. Elliot says, "It seems to me a good species and I wonder it has been overlooked."

The most marked differences between *A. maculosa* and *A. fulvigula* are that the cheeks of the former are streaked with brown while those of the latter are plain buff; the speculum is purple instead of green; the general effect of the coloration, especially on the under sides, is mottled instead of streaked; the light color everywhere is a pale buff or isabella color instead of a rich, deep buff; and the tail markings also are different, as indicated. The female had in its oviduct a perfect egg, which I have not yet received from Mr. Singley. Mr. Priour is familiar with the Duck, and finds it not uncommon on the grass flats of Nuesces Bay and River.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Cory's Birds of the West Indies.*—Mr. Cory has republished in a book of 324 pages his various papers on West Indian birds published during the last three years in 'The Auk,' together with much new matter, including two maps of the West India Islands, and a bibliography of West Indian ornithology (pp. 5-14). Several new cuts have been added, and changes have been made at various points in the text, which in the main is a reprint from the electrotype plates of Mr. Cory's series of papers in 'The Auk.' About 555 species are recorded as West Indian, of which 350 are described at length; the remaining 205 (or thereabout) are North American, respecting which merely the character of their occurrence in the West Indies is chronicled, with a citation of the references to their West Indian history. Nearly three fifths of the species treated are distinctively West Indian, being not found elsewhere. Mr. Cory states (p. 3) that in the preparation of the work he examined a large series of birds

*The | Birds of the West Indies. | Including | all species known to occur in the Bahama Islands, the Greater | Antilles, the Caymans, and the Lesser Antilles, excepting | the Islands of Tobago and Trinidad. | By | Charles B. Cory, | Curator of Birds in the Boston Society of Natural History, Fellow of the | ... [= 5 lines of titles] | Author of | ... [= 4 lines, titles of works. | — | Illustrated. | — | Estes & Lauriat, | Boston, U. S. A. | 1889.—8vo, pp. 324, 2 maps, 2 maps, and numerous woodcuts in the text.